Truckers and Threats to Security

Talking Points – January 27, 2022

- Given the multi jurisdictional impacts of this large scale demonstration on the NCR, all key stakeholders (RCMP, OPP, OPS, PPS, SQ, MRC des Collines, the City of Ottawa, Ville de Gatineau, SPVG) are actively planning and collaborating to ensure public safety.

    - The **Parliamentary Protective Service** (PPS) is the planning lead for the **Parliamentary Precinct and the grounds of Parliament Hill**;
    - The **Ottawa Police Service** (OPS) is leading the planning for the **National Capital Region**;
    - **National Division** is planning in support of the RCMP's **protective mandate** and working to ensure that we support our law enforcement partners in the region with any specialized support services required.

- The demonstration is comprised of 3 "Freedom Convoys", one from Western Canada, one from Eastern Canada and a third from Southern Ontario.

- The goal of the nation wide protest is to disrupt traffic flow and general business of government in the hopes that the Canadian government will lift all COVID-19 related restrictions.

- Although the majority of information indicates organizers are planning a peaceful event, many social media posts suggest some participants may attempt to disrupt government buildings and further cause disruptions throughout the city.

- Information suggests the convoys will meet in Toronto on January 27th, drive the 401 highway to Kingston, then stage in Arnprior on January 28th, converging to Ottawa at noon on January 29th on Parliament Hill.

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- OPS has advised that, in addition to the larger demonstration in the downtown core, organizers are planning additional events on January 29th and 30th in Confederation Park, which will serve as the home base for some participants. This includes the installation of tents, food vendors (2 trucks) and a BBQ in the Park. Public Speakers are being organized for 11:00hrs on January 29th and a church service is being planned for the same time on January 30th.

- The RCMP has located social media posts indicating some participants may stay around the downtown core until January 31st in hopes to disrupt the House of Common's sitting that day.

- We have also located a twitter post suggesting that the convoys may at some point converge near 24 Sussex Drive to continue their protest

- We can expect a major traffic impact heading into this weekend and possibly into next week. There are reports that truck demonstrations are already slowing and stopping traffic throughout Canada.

- On January 26th, OPS issued a Public Service Announcement advising the public that significant traffic disruptions are to be expected in the NCR this week and that there will be a heighted police and emergency service presence in the downtown core and on major highways and roads. They're encouraging residents to follow the city's traffic management tool (@Ottawa_Traffic) for real time updates.

- The National Capital Region Command Centre (NCRCC) will be activated as of 13:00 on January 28th, through to at least January 30th.

- All key internal and external stakeholders will have a presence in the Regional Command Centre to ensure ongoing communication and collaboration. While the NCRCC will also serve as the area command centre for the RCMP, forward command centres are being stood up at alternate locations by OPS and PPS with direct linkages into the NCRCC.

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- In addition to domestic partners, a representative from the US Embassy will be in the Command Centre given the potential impacts on that diplomatic site.

- National Division's Critical Incident Program (CIP), which includes the Protective Operations Response Unit, Emergency Response Team, Tactical Support Group, Crisis Negotiation Team, Critical Incident Commanders, Scribes and the Tactical Paramedic Unit are actively engaged in the planning process. The staging of RCMP public order resources and any other specialized operational support from the RCMP will be done in a discrete manner. At this time, we have not received a formal request for support from PPS or OPS, however, it is expected that these requests will be forthcoming as interagency planning evolves.

- PPS will be hosting a meeting January 28th with PCO, PSPC, OPS and RCMP to ensure full coordination within the Parliamentary Precinct. The Corporate Security directorates in the Senate and the House of Commons are fully briefed and no concerns have been raised relative to the overall plans.

- With respect to the threat picture, there has been an increase in online narratives supportive of the convoy among both ideologically motivated networks, as well as in general public discourse.

- In particular, the RCMP Protective Operations Coordination Center (POCC) has reported a strong resentment on multiple social media platforms, targeting Prime Minister TRUDEAU, Minister of Transport Omar ALGHABRA and politicians in general.

    - On January 22, 2022, a total of 15 files were opened in 16 hours.

- The convoy is attracting individuals who are not aligned with any specific ideology or group, but who have experienced personal hardships (such as job loss) due to COVID-19 and are upset with provincial or federal government responses as COVID-19 continues to impact daily life.

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- Open Source monitoring has identified associated posts advocating violence and there is potential for anti-government groups to join the demo with violent intentions. Online posts associated with the convoy continue to feed the conspiracy narrative with misinformation and disinformation which raises tensions with protestors.

- Open Source reports also suggest police are setting up roadblocks outside Ottawa, and such reports seem to fuel some trucker's agitation. A post to the event Facebook group asks for known MP's addresses in Ottawa including the Prime Minister's residence and cottage. The posts suggest the convoy should break apart to protest at all these locations.

- In addition, Open Source reports suggests truck drivers from the U.S. plan to join the Canadian demonstration with the possible intent to cause further disruption.

- Estimates on social media have claims that up to 1 million people are coming to Ottawa. These numbers are in no way reliable.

- As of January 26, 2022, over $5.2M has been raised via GOFUNDME. The funds are being withheld until the event organizer is able to provide the documentation explaining how the funds will be properly distributed.

- The Canadian Trucking Alliance has issued a statement saying they do not support the current convoy.

<u>Analysis of estimated trucks to arrive in Ottawa on January 28, 2022:</u>

- Calgary: estimated 20-25 trucks departed (Calgary PS, Jan. 25)
- Regina: estimated 1200 trucks were involved in demonstration (Regina PS, Jan. 26)
- SQ: 1000 to 1500 trucks to arrive in Ottawa with possibly 3600 people to attend the demonstration (Jan. 26)
- The Western Convoy was comprised of approximately 830 vehicles when it crossed the Manitoba-Ontario border on Jan 25., 200 of which are reported to be private.

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- OPP continues to track 11 different convoys currently converging in the province of Ontario and are estimating that they will arrive in the NCR on Jan. 28 at 1530hrs.
- The “PEI Freedom Convoy to Ottawa 2022” will be departing for the NCR on Jan. 27. At this time, the size of this convoy is unknown.
- **TOTAL: 2725 trucks**

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RCMP Protective Mandate

Minister ALGHABRA

- On January 21, 2022, the Minister's s.37 [redacted] s.37 [redacted].

- The RCMP's Ministerial Liaison Team was in contact with Minister ALGHABRA's office (Mike Maka, COS) on Wednesday, January 19 and again on Monday, January 24. The Minister's COS will share a copy of the Minister's itinerary with the POCC. Minister ALGHABRA will be in his home riding of Mississauga this week and will be in Ottawa the week of January 31.

- The PoJ (Peel Regional) has been informed of the situation and are engaged. The Minister will try to do most meetings from home, but should he have any events, they will ensure to notify the RCMP. They were very appreciative of our efforts. As of January 21, 2022, Minister ALGHABRA s.37 [redacted].

Ministerial Packages

- The RCMP recognizes that there has not been a significant change in the threat environment, however, we have noted over time there is an increase in the number of online posts or emails that are either expressing significant dissatisfaction or threatening in nature. The tone and nature of the messages has changed over this extended COVID-19 period.

- There has also been a number of recent incidents involving constituency offices or private dwellings. These are the responsibility of the Police of Jurisdiction, Sergeant at Arms (SAA) and various Departmental Security units, but the strong collaboration that exist ensures the RCMP is aware and can consider the information in assessing when close protection is needed, which in the RCMP's mandate.

- As a result, Protective decided to be proactive and to reach out to identified Ministers and s.37 [redacted]. The intent was to provide a level of comfort to the Ministers and to err on the

side of caution while further analysis is done over time to determine how the environment is changing.

- Effective January 11, 2022, a s.37 [redacted] for announcements and public functions has been put in place for eight individuals:

  Minister JOLY
  Minister FREELAND
  Minister DUCLOS
  Minister MENDICINO
  Minister GUILBEAULT
  Minister BLAIR
  Minister MILLER
  Minister ANAND
  Dr. TAM.

- The Protective Operations Coordination Centre (POCC) will be reaching out to the Ministers offices on a weekly basis to obtain schedules and assess the need for the deployment of protective measures.

s.39 [redacted]

- The Sergeant-At-Arms has distributed an email message to MP's with Constituency offices in the NCR, advising them of the potential disruptions and the precautions that can be taken to ensure their safety. It is expected that a similar message will be distributed to all Parliamentarians and Parliamentary employees.

<u>Outreach Moving Forward</u>

- Aware that MPs in Ottawa are concerned with individuals showing up at their residences, the RCMP in consultation with the Sergeant-at-Arms is coordinating a message to MPs that are consistent with our protocols:

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  - If there is an imminent threat, call 9-1-1 immediately;
  - For all other incidents, contact the Sergeant-at-Arms; and,
  - Sergeant-at-Arms will coordinate with the community, including the RCMP.

- The RCMP's Ministerial Liaison Team will continue to proactively communicate and reach out to Ministers offices to assess the need for the deployment of protective measures.

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